



How to Talk with a Biologist (Quiz)

Every profession develops lingo. A carpenter may ask you to hand her a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch sink bit. A chef may provide you a ramekin on the fly. When you stare at the chef or carpenter blankly, they may realize that you need to know certain terminology before you can complete the task or even understand. The broad field of biology is notorious for lingo. Biologists use very specific terms for actions or characteristics of a landscape, tool, animal, or plant. Perhaps the most perplexing aspect of biologist lingo is the use of common terms in different ways such as community, rigorous, and canopy. To understand what biologists mean by these and other terms, take the multiple choice quiz below. Then take a biologist out to dinner and engage in a stimulating conversation.

For more PACN quizzes visit: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn/outreach/Quiz_book_web.pdf

Multiple choice (see answers and rank at bottom)

1. **Anchialine pool**
 - a. A small pool of surface water made of porous rock and fed underground by both freshwater and ocean water
 - b. A small body of water which does not surpass the knee when standing in the deepest part
2. **Transect**
 - a. A straight line through a natural feature along which observations are made or measurements are taken
 - b. The movement of a biologist through a section of a Standard Operating Procedure
3. **Benthic**
 - a. Any fossil or stone identified as originating in prehistoric oceans
 - b. The plants and animals found on the sea floor
4. **Watershed**
 - a. A storage house for hoses and buckets in preparation for fire
 - b. An interconnected drainage basin of water from rain or snow eventually leading to an ocean or other body of water
5. **Mesic forest**
 - a. A forest containing a moderate amount of moisture
 - b. A forest chosen for study due to its cultural significance
6. **Passerine**
 - a. A group of birds defined, in part, by feet adapted for perching; including all songbirds
 - b. A complex navigational system for tracking birds
7. **Quadrat**
 - a. The name given to a certain rodent behavior whereby the rodent employs all four limbs as if they were arms
 - b. A square or rectangular area marked off and isolated to determine the plants or animals occurring in the area
8. **Rigorous data**
 - a. Any data collection after which the biologist winds up exhausted
 - b. Extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate data
9. **Canopy**
 - a. The uppermost trees or branches in a forest, forming a layer of foliage
 - b. A canvas or plastic covering for long-term storage of gear
10. **Riparian**
 - a. Of or relating to riverbanks or wetlands adjacent to rivers or streams
 - b. A designation given to any animal who feeds on over-ripe fruit
11. **Pelagic**
 - a. Inhabiting the upper layers of the open sea (usually associated with fish)
 - b. Dried hair follicles of marine mammals
12. **Community**
 - a. A group of organisms which tends to feed at the same time
 - b. A set of organisms found in the same habitat at the same time
13. **Indigenous species**
 - a. Any species of bird or mammal that communicates in a distinct local dialect
 - b. A species originating or occurring naturally in a particular place

Score and Rank:

12-13 = Biologist, 9-11 = Nature enthusiast, 5-8 = Novice, 0-4 = Time to retake the quiz

Answers: a, a, b, b, a, a, b, b, a, a, a, b, b